

HEALTH & SAFETY @ VPS

2021-22



On July 12, the **California Department of Public Health CDPH** issued its guidelines for schools as they begin the 2021-22 school year. Included in their guidelines are the following:

- Masks are optional outdoors for all in K-12 settings.
- Masks are required indoors for all in K-12 settings.
- Instruction can occur safely without minimum physical distancing requirements when other mitigation strategies (e.g., masking) are implemented.

In addition, on July 26, the **Center for Disease Control CDC** updated their guidance for schools to include the following:

- Universal indoor masking is recommended for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.
- In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors.
- CDC guidance "is meant to supplement—not replace—any federal, state, or local health and safety laws, rules, and regulations."

Accordingly, given the current requirements of the CDPH and recommendations of the CDC, **Valley Prep will begin the new school with the following protocols in-place ...**

1. Masks will be optional when students, staff, and parents are outside of the classroom
2. **Masks will be required for K-8 students & staff when they are inside the classroom**, regardless of vaccination status. Students and staff may also be granted permission to use a face-shield instead of a mask.
3. Students & staff are encouraged, but not required, to be vaccinated. However, unvaccinated staff must undergo regular testing.
4. Classrooms will be set-up as in "normal" years, without minimum physical distancing. However, students will continue to physical distance while eating at the outdoor picnic tables.
5. AM temperature checks will not be done on a daily basis. However, if a student is sent home with a fever (100.4 or above), that student must remain out of school for one full school-day.
6. Parents will not be required to wear a mask while dropping-off or picking-up their children.
7. Parents will be allowed on-campus but must wear a mask when indoors.
8. Commonly touched surfaces (doorknobs, etc) will continue to be wiped-down daily.
9. Parents must inform the school if a student is **exposed** to someone with Covid-19. Exposure is defined at 15-minutes of continual contact within 6 feet). The student is allowed to attend school if they are (1) asymptomatic and (2) submit a negative Covid-19 test result. If a student **tests positive** for Covid-19, they must remain out of school for a minimum of 10-days and submit a negative test result (or medical clearance) before returning to school.
10. If multiple students in the same class test positive for Covid-19, then the entire class may be required to transition to Distance Learning for 10-days (based upon DPH guidelines). If more than ten students across the school test positive within a ten-day period, then entire school may be required to transition to Distance Learning for 10-days (based upon DPH guidelines).
11. **Distance Learning will not be provided by the school** (except in the instances of #10 above). If a student must quarantine for 10-days (see #9 above), then the teacher will provide assignments to be completed at-home.
12. Currently, there are no travel "restrictions" indicated by the state of California. Accordingly, families do not need to inform the school of their travel plans.